

Prime Farmland

Development threatens the irreversible conversion of farmland to other uses. Recognizing that land use cannot remain static and our state is becoming more urban, it seems reasonable that conversion of agricultural land should be based on the quality of our soils. Soils can be rated in terms of their ability to grow agricultural crops. Obviously some soils in Maine are much more valuable for agriculture than others.

Prime Farmland is one of several kinds of important farmlands defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Identification of prime farmland is a major step in meeting the Nation's needs for food and fiber.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while using acceptable farming methods. Prime farmland produces the highest yields and requires minimal amounts of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Prime farmland is a limited strategic resource. No more of it is being created.

Prime Farmland Soils in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties, Maine

Only the soils considered prime farmland are listed. Urban or built-up areas of the soils listed are not considered prime farmland.

Map Symbol

Soil Name

AdA	AGAWAM FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES
AdB	AGAWAM FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
CfB	CHARLTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
EmB	ELMWOOD FINE SANDY LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
Ha	HADLEY SILT LOAM
MeB	MELROSE FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
MkB	MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
NgB	NINIGRET FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
On	ONDAWA FINE SANDY LOAM
PbB	PAXTON LOAM, 2 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
Py	PODUNK FINE SANDY LOAM
SxB	SUTTON LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
Wn	WINOOSKI SILT LOAM
WrB	WOODBIDGE LOAM, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES